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(54) Title: METHODS OF SCREENING FOR MODULATORS OF NERVE GROWTH FACTOR

(57) **Abstract:** The invention relates, in general, to a method of screening for agents that modulate NGF activity. More specifically this invention provides a method of assessing the ability of a candidate agent to modulate NGF activity comprising, measuring the level of expression of one or more or two or more NGF responsive genes in a culture of neurons expressing the high-affinity trk A receptor after contact with a candidate agent. The invention further provides methods of culturing primary cultures of neurons expressing the high-affinity trk A receptor and methods of isolating polynucleotides from such cultures.

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